

TOP SECRET

29 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Major General M. A. Preston
Director of Operations
Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations
Department of the Air Force

THROUGH : Colonel Leo P. Geary
Special Assistant to the Inspector General
for Projects
Department of the Air Force

SUBJECT : Proposed Peripheral Elint Missions

1. Herewith is a short paper prepared for me within CIA. In your office on 28 July I promised to pass this to you through Colonel Geary. I have taken the liberty of handing a copy of this to Colonel Macia (AFCIN) so that the Air Force Requirements Officer will be familiar with it.

2. I am in full agreement with what I understood to be your view that our organization should undertake peripheral missions of this character only when (a) we have a superior or more readily available capability and (b) a real requirement exists for the intelligence collection.

3. As to the first of these criteria, I am confident that for reasons set forth in the attachment the so-called System IV Elint collection device in the U-2 aircraft does constitute a superior collection capability, at least for pioneer reconnaissance. It should be noted that within several months, SAC will have this equipment checked out in their U-2s and will therefore possess the same capability. As of today, however, our arrangements with are complete and we could move a staging

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party into [redacted] on short notice. I believe therefore we are in better position to perform these missions this season.

4. As to the second criteria, I believe the two missions discussed in the attachment [redacted]

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[redacted] give promise of yielding a valuable addition to presently available intelligence and justify whatever hazards are involved providing that we wait for weather that would permit accurate navigation.

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5. I am sure you realize that specific missions would be coordinated well in advance with your staff in accordance with agreed procedures.

RICHARD M. BESSELL, JR.
Special Assistant to the Director

Attachment:
Copy #5 TCS-3457-58

cc: Col. Geary, AFCIG
Col. Macia, AFCIN

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